GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Policy for Medicinal Plants
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI,
SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Council in Ayurveda and Unani have conducted medico-ethno survey for documentation and publishing the medicinal plants and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy for aromatic plants and forest produce and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received a number of suggestions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with action taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 335 FOR 24th March, 2017

(a): Yes, the research councils of Ministry of AYUSH viz. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM) conducts medico-ethnobotanical survey and documentation of medicinal plants through their research institutes and units located in different parts of the country and published them periodically. The CCRAS and CCRUM has conducted Medico-ethnobotanical survey across different forest areas / geographical regions in the country and the lists of monographs / book published are at Annexure-I & II.

(b) to (d): To look into all matters related to medicinal plants and overall development of medicinal plants sector in the country, the Government of India has set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in 2000. Since its inception, the NMPB has been implementing various schemes / programmes for conservation, development, sustainable managements, cultivation of the medicinal & aromatic plants of medicinal value in the country and presently, implementing the following schemes:

(i) Central Sector Scheme on "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants"
(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM)

The subject of medicinal & aromatic plants is of a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional nature which is dealt by different Ministries / Departments of Government who implements various schemes / programmes in this regards.

However, in recent years an alarming imbalance has been observed between growing demand and shrinking supply of medicinal & aromatic plants in the country and this has also resulted in overexploitation, depletion of natural populations of many of these species. Therefore, to give a more focused attention on sustainable management and development of medicinal & aromatic plants sector in the country, a need is felt for a comprehensive and suitable national level policy on medicinal & aromatic plants of India.

Hence, in this regard, the NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH on 19-20 January, 2017 had organized an "International Symposium on Drafting a National Policy of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of India" in collaboration with Federation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Stakeholders (FEDMAPS) in New Delhi. The major thrust areas of symposium were (i) Forest & Conservation, (ii) Cultivation, Sustainable Harvesting & Post-Harvest Management, (iii) Information, Education & Communication, (iv) Research & Development, (v) Regulatory Mechanism, (vi) Training & Capacity Building, (vii) Industry, Trade & Marketing, (viii) Networking & IT / Space Intervention, (ix) Export Promotion and (x) Programs & Schemes.

The symposium was attended by various medicinal & aromatic plants stakeholders viz. policy makers, scientists, academicians, traditional health practitioners, pharmaceutical trade and drug industries, NGOs, farmers etc. and during the symposium they have exchanged their ideas and discussed various issues related to conservation, cultivation, regulations, research & development, marketing & trade of medicinal and aromatic plants. After the symposium a number of suggestions regarding national policy on different aspects of medicinal & aromatic plants are also received from various stakeholders and in this regard, as an outcome of the symposium, an assignment has been entrusted to FEDMAPS to frame a draft document on 'National Policy of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants'.

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